



The Spark Gap

December 1986

OK, radio fans, here we go again with another rip-snortin' issue. You'll notice the new name; this is tentative, and I'm open to any suggestions that you feel might be better. I may offer a free subscription to the winner. (Not a free membership--that's not mine to offer--but a free subscription with your regular membership. How's that for a deal? As good as Wayne Green, right?

PRESIDENT'S CORNER--It seems to me that 1986 has been a short year. We had a short spring, a short summer, were short of time, money and patience.

Now let's take a look at the long side. 1986 began with us short of funds, and now the club is solvent. We've been able to buy a few necessary items and thereby perfect our communications. Good communications are a must. A good repeater is a must. With both we can increase our membership.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party--Saturday, December 6, 2:00 to 7:00 PM at Palmer Park Community Center in Franklin. (Palmer Park is on W. Madison St. in Franklin, 2 1/2 blocks east of US 31; the Center is on your left across from the church.) If you can't join us for the whole time, please stop in for a cup of coffee.

DECEMBER MEETING--will be held on the SECOND Saturday (the 13th) due to the message handling at the Homes in Franklin. Time and place are the same; only the date is changed. The program will consist of message-gathering at the Franklin homes. JANUARY MEETING--will feature Mike Head WB9ZQE and two guests from Marion County RACES, discussing ham participation in the 1987 PanAm Games. This will be followed by a tour of WB9YIG's ALLNET cellular telephone facility, so it sounds like one of the most interesting meetings we've had yet. DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

PERSONALS--We're thankful that Dan W9MLN's wife and WA9RDF's mother are both doing well.

Our sympathy to WB9OZZ and his wife on the death of her brother. THANKS to N9EXK and WB9YAJ for the tour of WISH-TV; fascinating!

KERCHUNKER--at the November meeting was won by Homer WB9OZZ and Fred KA9VRB. Homer says the FCC Rule Book is available for anyone to use.

CHRISTMAS TRAFFIC--will be collected after the December meeting. (Don't forget--the SECOND Saturday!) and on other days to be announced. This is one of the public service activities that helps put MSARC on the map, so please be ready to help. Ron KA9VWR, Walt N9FWF and Jack N9EXK are in charge, and will welcome your participation.

GOBLIN PATROL--wasn't as interesting this year as last, but we were out in force. Like polio vaccine, you never know whether we prevented anything or not, but we hope so. Participants were:

KA9QYK and KD9NQ--Net Controls	
W9MLN	W9BBE
WA9RDF	KA9VWR
W9LNX	N9EXK
K9EMV	N9FWF

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WB9FIK KA9OOH
N9AZD KN9E
KK9G

Thanks for the coffee, W9MLN!

By the way, we got a nice thank-you mention in the Ridge Hill Trails newsletter for patrolling that subdivision. (My wife is the editor, but I didn't ask her to put it in!) Makes you feel good.

N9AZD/R--is forging ahead. Current projects completed or nearly so include the time-out timer and disable controls for the repeater and autopatch, plus a preamp. The new controller is due any day, and may change autopatch procedures, but we'll keep members informed.

DE KA9VWR--Ron says that a swap meet has been suggested for February. Sound like a good idea? Let Ron know if you'd be interested and he'll start plans.

NOVICE TEST--(from the July 1984 Readers Digest):

Identify--

Half a Russian news agency (demitasse)
Ten cards (decacards)
2000 mockingbirds (2 kilomockingbirds)
Two tribes (1 diatribe)
1 1-trillionth dilly (picodilly)
1 billion antics (1 gigantic)
1 1-millionth fish (1 microfiche)
1 1-trillionth surprise (1 picoboo)
(and a kiloboo can scare you to death!)

Did you pass?

ENOUGH for now; if you run across anything as good as the above, pass it on. After all, hamming is supposed to be fun!

